



Praise and Worship Leaders' Training

Lamb of God Wellington Branch

May 4, 2013

Introduction

- ‘Worship’ is the primary way we relate to God. [What is ‘worship?']
- Worship is one of the primary reason why we meet together as God’s people.
- We are made for worship.
- The way we worship God defines who we are.
- We are called to lead praise and worship.
- Our goal as P/W leaders:
 - achieve excellence in worship.

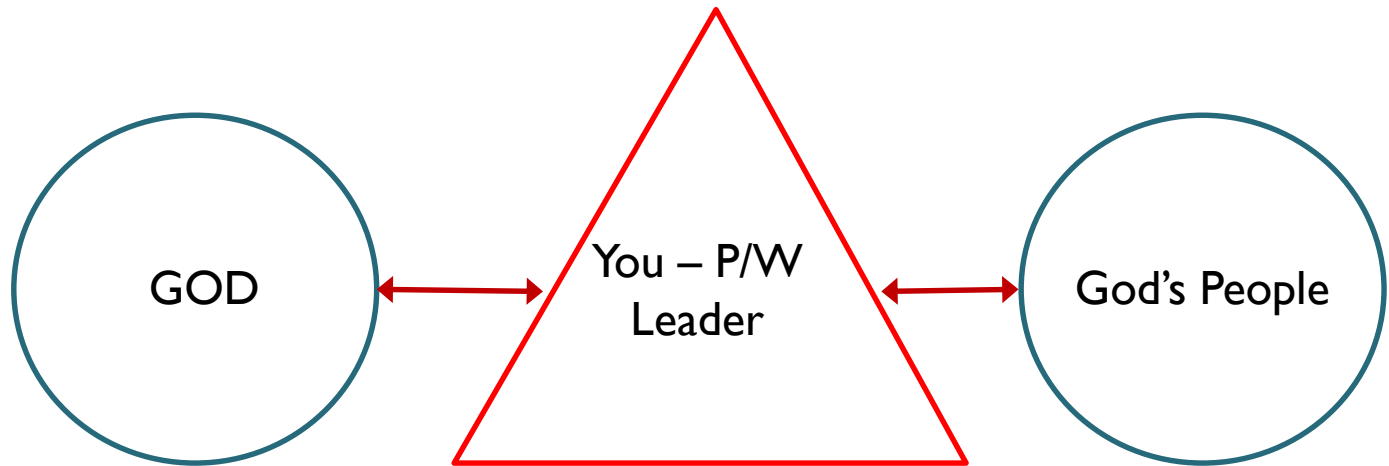
Excellence in Worship

Some primary elements include:

- People are free and encouraged to praise and worship God. [Provide atmosphere]
- Participative worship; people able to read God's word, shout praise, clap, sing in the Spirit, etc.
- People are able to encounter the Living God.
- God is able to 'deal' with His people.
- The Holy Spirit is present in our midst. [Spirit-filled worship]

Excellence in Worship

- You are the mediator between God and His people. God's grace flows through you!





This Session

- In this session, we will primarily talk about the elements of a good communal worship.
- We are doing well; these sessions aims to help us have a common understanding of our roles as P/W leaders and see where we can improve.
- You are free to ask questions at any time.



Summary: Elements of a Good Communal Worship

1. God centred
2. Active participation by everyone [led by you].
3. Good preparation.
4. Frequent Use of Scripture.
5. God is a God of Order.
6. Led by the Holy Spirit.
7. Pastor-Led [or Shepherd-led], not Emcee-led.

Elements of a Good Communal Worship

A. God-centred

1. We are called to an active and self-forgetting worship of God.
2. Not feelings-focused [to make one's self feel good after praise and worship].
3. *He must increase, but I must decrease.* [John 3:30]
God is the focus, not us. We are His vessels or channels of His grace.
4. Avoid giving long speeches at the start. We are not supposed to give a mini-teaching, but to exhort our brothers and sisters to worship God. When sharing a testimony, be direct to the point. About 5 minutes' introduction or exhortation is great!

Elements of a Good Communal Worship

B. Active Participation of Everyone

1. The P/W leader should provide an atmosphere to encourage this.

2. This involves shouting, dancing, clapping, tongues, singing in the Spirit, thanking God, reading of Psalms, etc.

3. The P/W leader should be facing the people and actively worshipping with the music team as models of worshippers.

4. The Worship/Music team is his/her main support. They should set the tone in worship!

Elements of a Good Communal Worship

C. Good Preparation

1. Pray for the prayer meeting - seek the Lord; choose the songs with prayer; do Spiritual warfare; have a plan in mind but be open to the Spirit's leading.

2. You need to come early [30 minutes before the start]! Pray before the prayer meeting with the team for intercession, covering prayer, briefing, instructions, concerns, etc.

3. Come in proper attire – with collar, pants, shoes. Be a model of someone meeting a VIP! But not to draw attention to yourself but to God.

Elements of a Good Communal Worship

D. Frequent Use of Scripture

1. During exhortation, use the Scriptures in between songs, thanking the Lord [Psalms], prophecies, asking people to thank God by God's Word, music, etc.

2. *All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be complete and thoroughly equipped for every good work. [2 Timothy 3:16-17]*

3. *Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. [Psalms 119:105]*

Elements of a Good Communal Worship

E. God is a God of Order

[I Corinthians 14:33]

I. Our songs, music and prophecy should give a flow through the meeting; a pattern where people know what to do next.

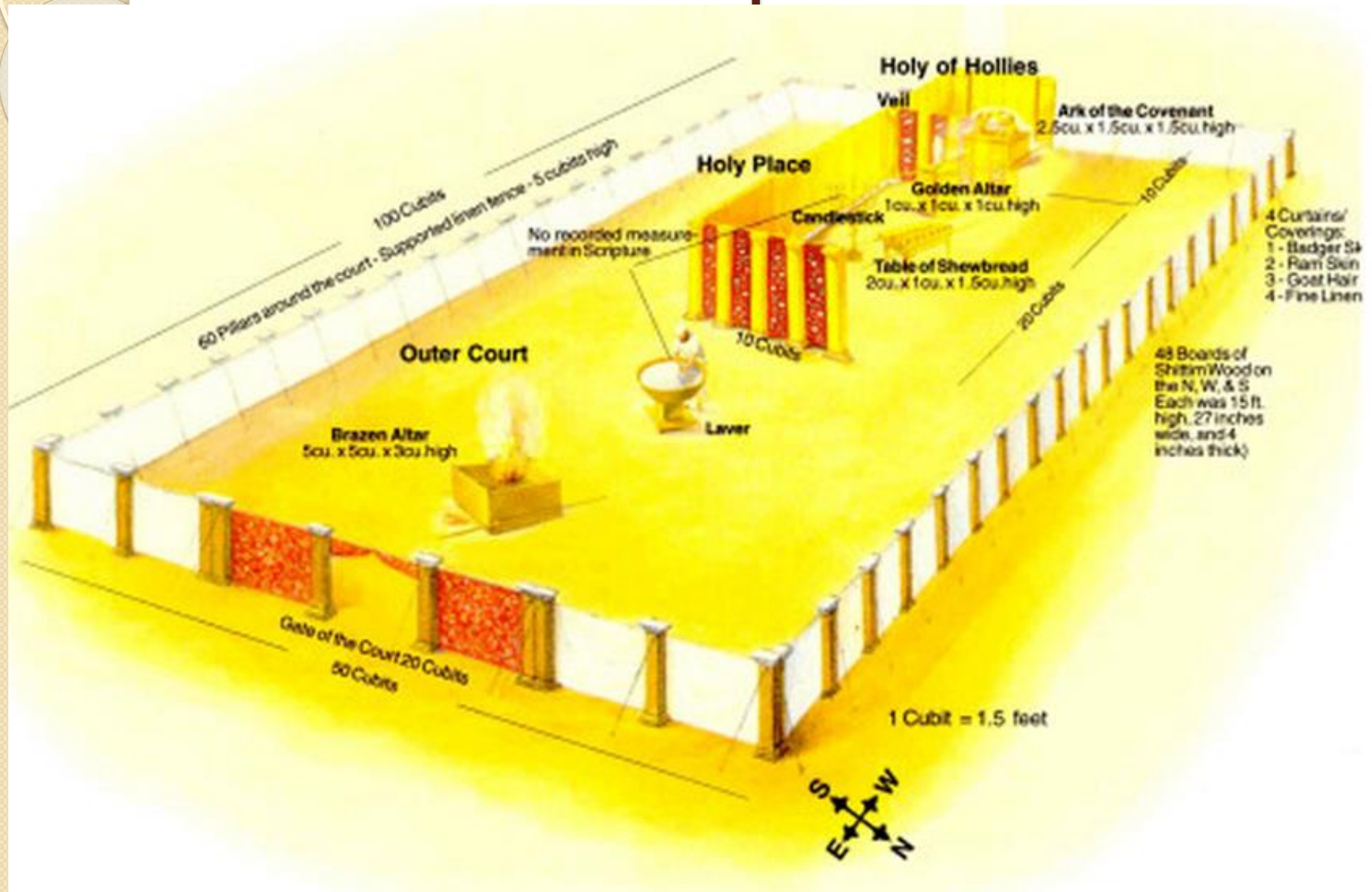
What is FLOW?

- Continuity in worship
- Seamless transition – not bumpy!

Flow of Worship: OT



Flow of Worship: OT



Parts of Worship	Prayers and Exhortation	Direction of Conversation in the prayer and in the song	Beat of the Song	Congregation's response
1. Opening Prayer/Praise- Entering the presence of the Lord/Coming into His presence with praise (Outer Court)	Talking to the congregation and presenting the theme, by exhortation/sharing.	Horizontal (to the congregation) or Vertical (to God)	Fast in general	Joyful singing and loud praising/clapping of hands.
2. Preparation of our hearts to worship by opening to the Spirit (Inner Court)	Contrition / Casting our cares /Surrender	Horizontal then Vertical or Vertical	Moderate or Slow	Courting the Spirit to come with His power as we humbly surrender ourselves. Seeking God's touch and sensing the Presence as we sing psalms/hymns/spiritual songs
3. Intimate worship and communing with God (Holy of Holies)	Talking to God about his Worth, His Attributes, who He is and what He does	Vertical	Slow	Awesome and Glorious intimate Encounter with God through song and singing in tongues, With prophecy to follow.
4 . Empowerment of our gifts/our Community or summary of God's Direction	God's Promise or His Order/Direction	Horizontal or Vertical	Grand/slow but with power/ slow to fast	Commitment prayer with something to bring home
Horizontal- Talking to people about God	Vertical - Talking to God/Focused on God			

General Flow of Praise & Worship

- Exhortation

- What is Exhortation?
- Takes some time to prepare.
- To focus on God only; like a blinder.
- Encourage participation of everyone
 - Use of our physical bodies: hands, mouths, etc.
 - Use of Scripture to thank and praise God.
 - At all stages of P/W: exuberant praise, tongues, singing in the Spirit, prophecy, etc.
 - Use of our Spiritual Gifts



General Flow of Praise & Worship

- Exhortation

- How to prepare:

- Pray and seek the Lord. Pray in the Spirit.
 - Choose a theme [God's love, mercy etc.]or a Scripture verse as your 'theme.' [!]
 - Or think of recent event in your life that is encouraging that can help people focus on God. You can share a short testimony. Note – if you wish to give a long testimony, do it after the praise and worship.
 - Refer to God's word and use it during your exhortation.
 - Choose songs of praise and of worship that is in line with your theme.
 - If you are not confident, use cue cards to organize your thoughts.

General Flow of Praise & Worship

- Exhortation

- What to avoid:

- Giving a mini-teaching.
 - Giving a very long testimony.
 - Anything that distracts people from the purpose of an exhortation – to focus on God only.

- What to do:

- Establish rapport/eye contact by greeting people and welcome them.
 - Be encouraging and positive.
 - Be a model of a worshipper.

General Flow of Praise & Worship

- Exhortation [to focus on God and P/W]
- Exuberant praise [fast songs; audience participation]
- Prepare for worship: time for repentance and/or asking for the Holy Spirit [Holy Spirit songs or songs of repentance]
- [Introduce discerners; also can be at start]
- Spirit-Filled Worship [worship songs]
- Conclusion of Praise and Worship – prayer, thanksgiving and/or silence.
- Prophecies

Elements of a Good Communal Worship

E. God is a God of Order [1 Corinthians 14:33]

2. Music should be led well (practice needed; role of the music leader)

3. Be conscious of time; cut off some songs if needed; coordinate when prophecies come in and who is the discernor.

4. Although it is good to have order and pattern, we need also to be flexible at times – next point.

Elements of a Good Communal Worship

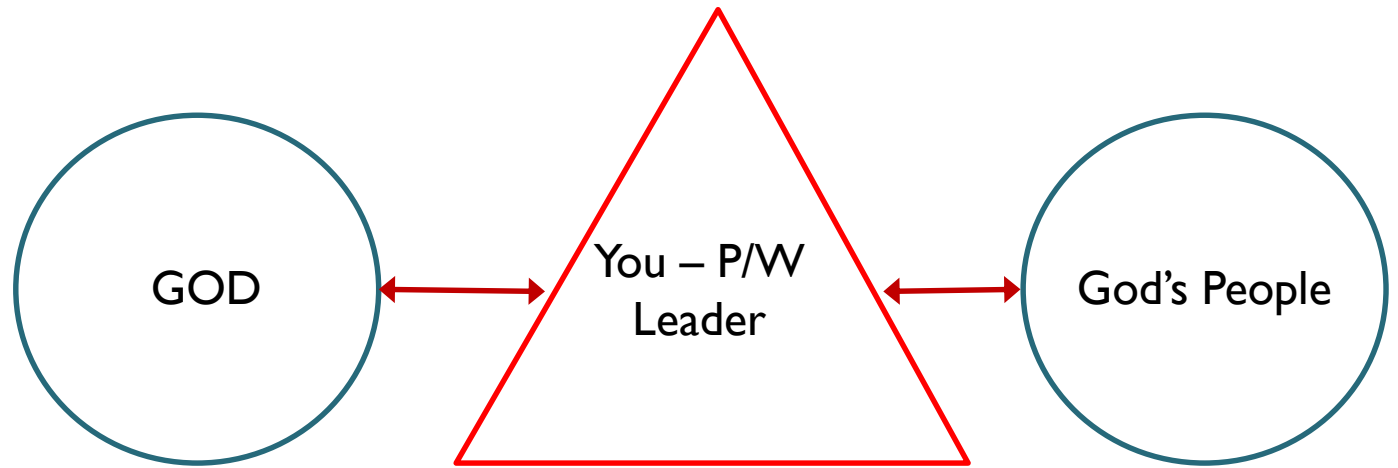
F. Led by the Holy Spirit

1. *God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth. [John 4:24]*

2. To worship in Spirit and in Truth means to worship God with all our heart, soul, mind, body, and strength. Worship is a state of mind, a way of life, a posture of heart.

3. We are to be in tune with the Holy Spirit and be ready to change our prepared agenda if we feel God has another plan (should be done in consultation with the elder in charge.)

4. Encourage all to use their Spiritual gifts!



Elements of a Good Communal Worship

G. Pastor-Led [or Shepherd-led], not Emcee-led

I. We are there not to 'emcee the programme' but rather to pastor/shepherd God's flock - draw them closer to God.

So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. [1 Peter 5:1-3]

Elements of a Good Communal Worship

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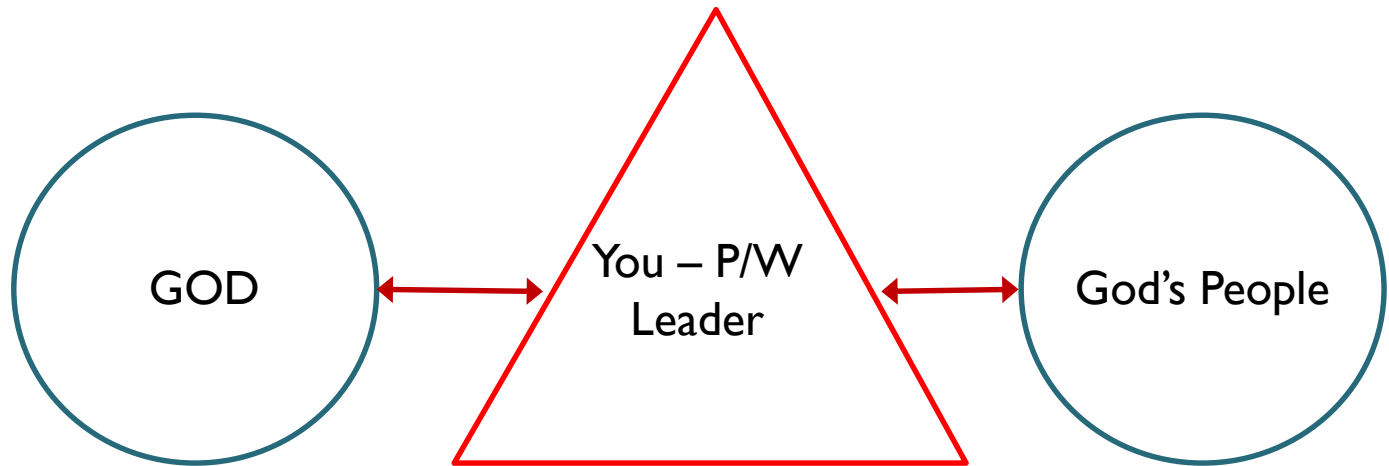
2. Be attuned to God: what is He wanting to do? Repentance? Asking of the Holy Spirit? Ministry time? Word of knowledge? Prophecy? Exercise of other Spiritual gifts?

3. Be sensitive also to the needs of the people – you are the link between God and His people.

4. Many times as a pastor, we need to summarise what God said, and we need to respond to Him by prayer or by directing people.

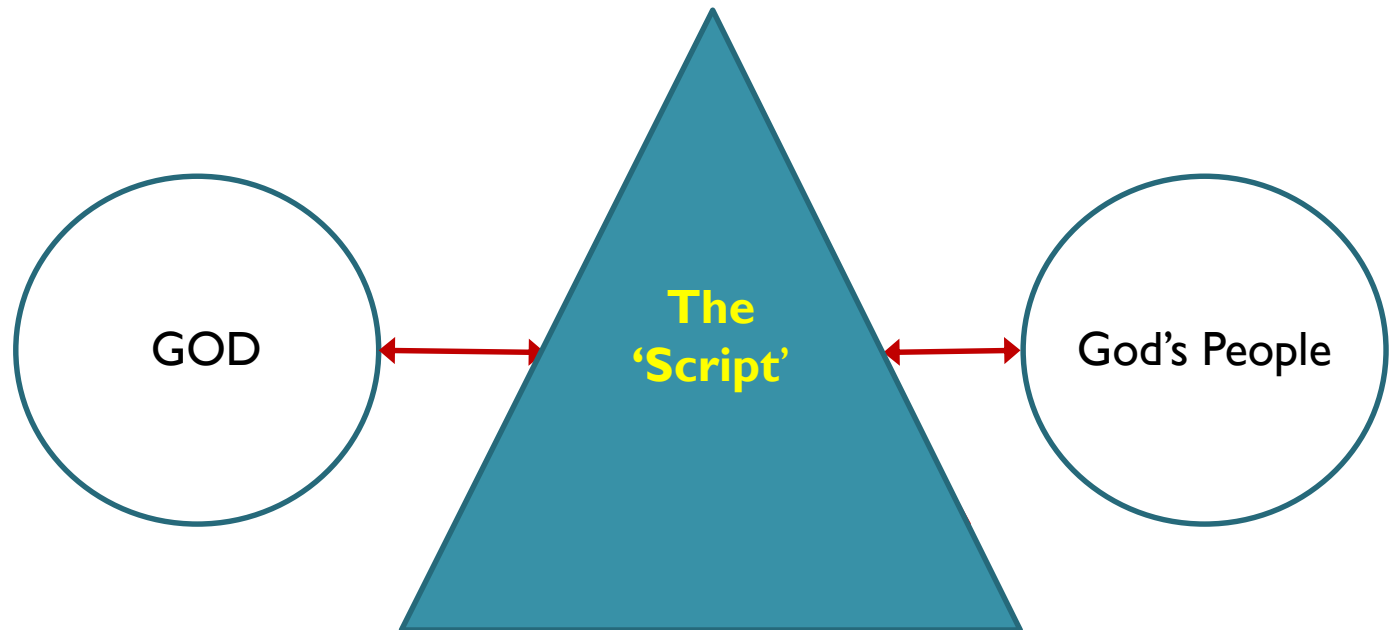
Emcee vs. Pastor Led Meeting

- Pastor Led Meeting



Emcee vs. Pastor Led Meeting

- Emcee Led Meeting





Summary: Elements of an Excellent Communal Worship

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2. Active participation by everyone [led by you].
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Comments

1. As worship leaders, we are to lead them and teach them the expressions of worship – raising hands, shouting, bowing down, etc. Have the right posture and face the audience.
2. It is okay to have pauses and silence once in a while. Do not panic when there is silence.
3. Make sure you develop eye contact and rapport with everyone before you start. Command attention before starting.



Comments

4. There is a good 'tension' between being orderly/having flow and being led by the Spirit – it is up to you to go where you discern God leading you.

5. Be open for feedback as you lead; your brothers and sisters may give you valuable input for you to improve the next time you lead.

Comments

6. Song Selection: we usually start with quicker praise songs; middle – move to songs that draw people closer to God [worship songs]; and end with something positive [last song]

7. We would want to stick to the songs we have available. Why?

8. There is no rule about the number of songs, but be conscious of the time you have for praise and worship [GCG - usually about half an hour]. This should be around 5-7 songs.



Comments

9. The way we lead praise and worship reflects our own relationship with God; we need to draw closer to God so we can draw our brothers and sisters closer to God.



Any questions?